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Royal Geographical Society,

1858.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL,

READ AT THE ANNIVERSARY MEETING ON THE 24TH MAY.

THE Council have the pleasure to submit their Annual Report of the financial state and progress of the Royal Geographical Society; and they refer with satisfaction to the evidence it affords of increased prosperity and extended usefulness.

Members Ordinary, Honorary, and Corresponding.—Since the last Anniversary 166 Ordinary Members have been added to the list of Fellows; 3 Honorary Members have also, upon the recommendation of the Council, been elected—M. de la Roquette, Vice-President of the Geographical Society of Paris; William Haidinger, Vice-President of the Imperial Geographical Society of Vienna; and General Alberto della Marmora, of Sardinia; and two Corresponding Members—David Livingstone, Esq., M.D., Her Majesty's Consul at Tete, Quillimane, and Sena; and M. V. A. Malte-Brun, Secretary of the Geographical Society of Paris. During the same period the Society has lost 18 Ordinary Members. Also Colonel Carl Falkenstein of Dresden, and Augustus Zeune of Berlin, Honorary Members; and Major-General Oberreit, of Dresden, a Corresponding Member of the Society.

The Society now comprises 1090 Ordinary and 58 Honorary and Corresponding Members.

Finances.—The financial statement annexed to this Report, shows a material improvement in every branch of revenue susceptible of increase; whilst the excess of expenditure over estimates is confined to those heads of account which peculiarly

indicate the extension of the Society's relations, viz., the "Journal and Proceedings," and the "Library and Map-rooms."

The permanent fund of the Society consists of 3000*l.* New 3 per Cent. Consols, to which may be added a sum of 500*l.*, at present in deposit at the Union Bank.

House.—The insufficiency of the accommodation afforded by the Society's Rooms for the largely increased attendance at our Evening Meetings, has been long felt, and various remedial plans have been considered, all of which have been successively set aside for inadequacy or expensiveness. In this difficulty the use of the large Hall at Burlington House has been kindly accorded by the authorities of the University of London and the Royal Society; the arrangement, however, can only be considered as temporary, and the subject of adequate permanent accommodation still presses upon the attention of the Council.

Publications.—Volume 27 of the Journal, containing many valuable and important papers, and 14 beautiful maps, with other illustrations, has recently been published under the Editorship of Dr. Shaw.

Nos. 9, 10, and 11 of the Proceedings, for last Session, with index, contents, and title-page, completing the first volume, and Nos. 1 and 2 of the second volume, also edited by Dr. Shaw, have been published and circulated free to the Fellows of the Society. Copies are also obtainable by the public at a very moderate cost.

The Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society, the Hungarian Academy of Sciences at Pesth, the Calcutta Public Library, the Geographical Establishment of Justus Perthes at Gotha, and the "Bureau des Colonies du Ministère de la Marine" of France, have been added to the list for presentation copies of the 'Proceedings' of the Society.

Map-Rooms.—The accessions to this department during the period under review consist of 1337 Maps and Charts, all of which have been mounted on the establishment, and arranged in their proper geographical order; in addition to which, upwards of 1800 maps and charts have been mounted and re-arranged. A general catalogue is now in course of formation, and several improvements have been effected in the arrangement

of the Map-rooms in order to facilitate a more ready reference to these extensive collections. The desire of many members of the Society, and others about to set out for imperfectly known countries, for instructions how best to make their labours useful to geography, referred to in a sub-committee report, entitled 'Hints to Travellers,' published in the 24th volume of the Society's Journal, has been farther carried into effect in this department by the Curator, Mr. George, who has given practical instruction in the use of instruments to intending explorers.

The following, among many other important acquisitions, may be specially noticed:—Charts published by the Hydrographic Department of the Admiralty, and by the French Dépôt de la Marine; Maps, plans, and views, published by the Statistical Department of the War-Office; Fullarton's Royal Illustrated Atlas; Blackie's Imperial Atlas; additional sheets of the Government maps of Sardinia, Norway, the Netherlands; the Atlas of Bavaria; Atlas de la Republica Mexicana; Plans relating to improvements in the city of Vienna; Findlay's Atlas of Ancient and Modern Geography; Keith Johnston's Travelling Map of Scotland; Devine's Map of North-West portion of Canada; Map of the World in Chinese characters, by P. M. Ricci, and six other Chinese maps of great rarity and value, presented by our Associate Mr. Lockhart; Papen's Geological Map of Europe, by Ravenstein; Maps of Wisconsin, &c., by Colonel Graham; Stanford's Maps of India, Delhi, &c.; Plan of the Island of Chusan, by Major-General Schoedde; Maps of South Africa, by R. Moffat; Map of the Island of Java, by Dr. Junghuhn; Maps of the River Yang-tse-Keang, presented by Col. A. H. Gordon, of the Quartermaster-General's Department, and by Capt. Collinson, R.N.; also Reports of the United States Coast Survey, from Professor Bache.

Library.—Several important alterations and improvements have been effected in this department. The works bequeathed to the Society by the late Mr. Greenough have been incorporated in the Library; additional shelving has been erected; the Library Catalogue has been carried up to date; a systematic plan has been adopted, combining the advantages of rapid and easy reference with a geographical arrangement; about 200 volumes, much in demand, have been purchased; several hundred volumes

have been bound; and, with a view to durability, some thousands of maps contained in the books, have been mounted. The accessions to the Library by donation and purchase, consist of nearly 900 volumes and pamphlets, among which are Livingstone's 'Travels and Researches in South Africa;' Atkinson's 'Oriental and Western Siberia;' Pinkerton's and Laharpe's Collections of Voyages and Travels; Wilkinson's 'Ancient Egyptians,' 'Dalmatia and Montenegro,' &c.; Belcher's Voyages of H.M.S. Sulphur and the Samarang; Beechey's 'Voyage of Discovery towards the North Pole;' Bartlett's Pictorial Illustrations of Jerusalem, Canada, &c.; Bingham's, Davis's, Fortune's, Gützlaff's, and Milne's works on China; Lloyd's 'Travels in India;' Kupffer's 'Annales de l'Observatoire Physique Central de Russie;' Selections from the Records of the Government of Bengal; Carter's 'Geological Papers on Western India;' the 4th edition of Somerville's 'Physical Geography;' Meldrum's 'Contributions to the Meteorology and Hydrography of the Indian Ocean;' the 'Minutes of the Committee of Council on Education;' 'Boletim e Annaes do Conselho Ultramarino' of Portugal; Perez-Rosales' 'Chile;' Malte-Brun's 'France Illustrée;' M'Culloch's 'Descriptive and Statistical Dictionary of the British Islands;' the third volume of Perry's 'Japan Expedition;' numerous Reports of Congress; Emory's 'Mexican Boundary Report;' Transactions of the University of Christiania; of the Geographical Societies of Berlin, Bombay, Darmstadt, New York, Paris, St. Petersburg, and Vienna; of the Smithsonian Institution of Washington; of the Imperial Geological Institute of Vienna; of the American Academy of Sciences, and the Academies of Science of Berlin, Lisbon, Madrid, Munich, Paris, St. Petersburg, Stockholm, Vienna.

Expeditions.—Two important expeditions have set forth from this country since the last Anniversary: one, under our Corresponding Member and Medallist Dr. Livingstone, assisted by several distinguished officers, to ascend the Zambesi, and renew his explorations in Africa; the other under Capt. Hawkins, R.E., also a Member of this Society, to survey, in conjunction with the United States Commissioners, the boundaries of Her Majesty's dominions in North America, and those of the United States. In compliance with the desire of the Foreign Office, suggestions

have been prepared by the Council for the use of these expeditions, and various instruments have also been placed at the service of Dr. Livingstone. Communications from other expeditions have been received and duly reported at the Evening Meetings;—from that under Captains Burton and Speke in East Africa, which by the last accounts had penetrated the interior to within 170 miles of Ugogo; from that under Captain Palliser in British North America, which had reached 109° w. on the Saskatchewan; from those in Australia under Captain Freeling and others; from Borneo, under Lieutenant de Crespigny; and from the Indian Archipelago, under Mr. A. R. Wallace, whose paper on the Arru Islands has recently been published in the 'Proceedings' of the Society. Other expeditions and proposed explorations have engaged and still occupy the attention of the Council.

Education.—The services of our Secretary, Dr. Shaw, have again been put in requisition by the Committee of the Privy Council on Education, to assist in the examination of candidates for Geographical Lectureships; and the Council have felt great pleasure in again placing Apartments in the Society's House at the disposal of the Committee for the purpose of this examination.

Royal Premium.—The Founder's Gold Medal has been awarded to Captain Richard Collinson, R.N., C.B., for his successful discoveries in the Arctic Regions, and for having, in H.M.S. *Enterprise*, penetrated farther to the eastward, through Behring Strait, than had been reached by any other vessel; and the Patron's or Victoria Medal to Professor Alexander Dallas Bache, Superintendent of the United States Coast Survey, for his extensive and most accurate surveys of America, and for the additions made by him to our knowledge of Geography and Hydrography.

In conclusion, the Council have to notice that the privilege accorded to the public of free access to the Society's valuable collections of Maps and Charts, is daily becoming better known and appreciated; also that the general desire for more accurate information on all cognate subjects, now so liberally encouraged by Her Majesty's Government, fully keeps pace with the measures taken by this Society for the increased, and more rapid, diffusion of geographical knowledge.

BALANCE-SHEET FOR THE YEAR 1857.

Receipts.

	£.	s.	d.
Balance at the Banker's, January 1st	1106	17	3
Subscriptions of 536 Fellows	1072	0	0
Compositions of 27 Fellows	665	0	0
Entrance Fees of 159 Fellows	477	0	0
Government Annual Grant	500	0	0
Arrears of Subscriptions	72	0	0
Sale of Publications	146	19	2
Interest on 3000*l.*	98	6	2
Royal Premium Grant	52	10	0
Rent of Stables	50	0	0
Subscriptions overpaid	8	18	0
	£4249	10	7

Expenditure.

				£.	s.	d.
Publications—Journal and Proceedings				858	9	11
Salaries				740	0	0
Rent, Taxes, and Wages, &c.				718	9	0
Library and Map Room				343	6	8
Office Expenses				194	0	2
Greenough Bust				50	0	0
Royal Premium, Gold Medals				46	14	0
Instruments for Dr. Livingstone				25	0	0
Overpaid Subscriptions returned				5	0	0
Purchase of 400*l.* New 3 per Cents.				378	0	0
Deposit at the Union Bank				500	0	0
Balance at Banker's, December 31	£354	1	4			
Ditto in Secretary's hands	36	9	6	390	10	10
				£4249	10	7

ROBERT BIDDULPH, *Treasurer.*

Audited, and found correct.
15, Whitehall Place, 31st March, 1858.

THOS. H. BROOKING,
E. OSBORNE SMITH,
THOS. LEE,
} *Auditors.*

ESTIMATE FOR THE YEAR 1858.

Receipts.

	£.	s.	d.
Annual Subscriptions	1150	0	0
Life Compositions	400	0	0
Entrance Fees	350	0	0
Arrears of Subscriptions	50	0	0
Sale of Publications	150	0	0
Royal Premium Grant	52	10	0
Government Annual Grant	500	0	0
Dividends on Stock	100	0	0
Cash Balance, 1st January, 1858	390	10	7
	£3143	0	7

Expenditure.

	£.	s.	d.
Journal and Proceedings	850	0	0
Rent, Wages, Lights and Firing	650	0	0
Salaries	800	0	0
East African Expedition	250	0	0
Royal Premium Awards	52	10	0
Library and Map Rooms	250	0	0
Office Expenses	250	0	0
Sundries for Balance	40	10	7
	£3143	0	7

NORTON SHAW.